Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /069 W

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R 040706Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6398 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 1356

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN MP'S SEDITION CASE APPEAL: PRIVY COUNCIL

ACTION EXPECTED SOON

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 804

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (DAP) MEMBER
OF PARLIAMENT OH KENG SENG TOLD EMBOFFS AT SOCIAL FUNCTION
MARCH 3 THAT FELLOW DAP MP FAN YEW TENG CURRENTLY IS IN
CHICAGO WHERE HE SUPPOSEDLY IS LOBBYING WITH U.S.
CONGRESSMEN ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN
MALAYSIA. ACCORDING TO OH, FAN HAS WRITTEN A "RATHER
NASTY" LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN CRITICIZING
THE PM IN PERSONAL TERMS FOR DETENTION OF TWO DAP
POLITICIANS ARRESTED LAST NOVEMBER UNDER THE INTERNAL
SECURITY ACT (ISA). OH SAID HE THOUGHT FAN CONSEQUENTLY
WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO RETURN TO MALAYSIA AND WOULD PROBABLY
SEEK AN EXTENSION OF HIS CURRENT ONE YEAR LEAVE OF ABASNCE
FROM PARLIAMENT DUE TO EXPIRE THIS MONTH.

2. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN IS NOT RPT NOT REGARDED AS A VINDICATIVE PERSON BUT HE HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENGAGED IN SOME HIGHLY PARTISAN VERBAL EXCHANGES IN PARLIAMENT WITH OPPOSITION LEADER LIM KIT SIANG, DAP SECRETARY GENERAL. IF FAN'S LETTER TO THE PM IS NOT RPT NOT MADE PUBLIC WE DOUBT HE WILL FACE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF IT. IF, HOWEVER, THE LETTER IS PUBLISHED (E.G., BY THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL OR THE DAP JOURNAL "THE ROCKET")

AND CONTAINS INTEMPERATE REMARKS ON SENSITIVE RACIAL OR SECURITY ISSUES FAN MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION ON HIS RETURN. BECAUSE OF THE CREDIBILITY THAT WILL ATTACHE TO HIS LOBBYING EFFORTS DERIVING FROM HIS STATUS AS AN MP, PLUS THE FACT THAT HE IS ATTRACTIVE AND ARTICULATE, WE WILL NOT BE SURPRISED IF FAN SUCCEEDS IN FOCUSING MORE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST ON HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN MALAYSIA THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a

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Subject: MALAYSIAN MP\'S SEDITION CASE APPEAL: PRIVY COUNCIL ACTION EXPECTED SOON

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINS, MY, (FAN YEW TENG)

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